

Yellowstone National Park

1 **SPEAKING** What is a national park? Are there any national parks in your country? Can you name them?

2 **VOCABULARY** Match the words below with the correct definitions.

canyon expedition extraordinary pond protect variety

- 1 a deep valley _____
- 2 very surprising or unusual _____
- 3 an organised trip, often to an unknown place _____
- 4 a number of different kinds of the same thing _____
- 5 a small area of water _____
- 6 to make sure something is safe _____

3 Complete the article with the correct forms of the words in exercise 2.



In 1809, John Colter, a hunter, travelled to a new part of the United States: the mountains and forests of Wyoming. He discovered an amazing place. It was an ¹ _____ land of ice and fire. When he returned home, he talked about his adventures – but nobody believed him!

Colter described amazing scenes. There were ² _____ of water – but they boiled! There were trees that appeared to be stone. There were holes in the ground that suddenly exploded, like fountains of boiling water. Everywhere there was the strong smell of sulphur.

Colter walked deep into the forests. He watched and studied an amazing ³ _____ of animals, including bears and wolves. He climbed high mountains and explored beautiful lakes and rivers. There were high waterfalls and deep ⁴ _____ with yellow rocks on each side. In fact, the name of this place comes from those rocks: Yellowstone.

Fifty years later, the US government organised three scientific ⁵ _____ to Yellowstone. They wanted to find out what was really there. Finally, people started to believe John Colter's stories. They realised Yellowstone was a beautiful and unusual place, and asked the government to ⁶ _____ it. So in 1872, President Ulysses S Grant signed a new law: Yellowstone was now the first national park in the world.



4 Read the article. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Write T or F.

- 1 John Colter was the first person to go to Yellowstone. _____
- 2 Colter talked to nobody about his adventures in Yellowstone. _____
- 3 Colter noticed a strange smell in Yellowstone. _____
- 4 The name 'Yellowstone' comes from the colour of the lakes and rivers there. _____
- 5 The government sent expeditions to Yellowstone in 1872. _____

5 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs or small groups. Discuss this situation.



You are walking in the forest when you meet a bear. What do you think is the best thing to do?

6 **4.25** Listen to the interview. Compare your ideas from exercise 5 with the woman's actions.

7 **4.25** Listen to the interview again. Circle the correct answers.

- 1 The woman
 - a wanted to be ready if she met a bear.
 - b was not aware that there were bears in Yellowstone.
 - c wanted to meet a bear.
- 2 The woman remembered reading that running away from a bear is
 - a never a good idea.
 - b the best thing to do.
 - c only a good idea if you are quick.
- 3 When the woman moved backwards, the bear
 - a started to move backwards too.
 - b was frightened and moved away quickly.
 - c moved quickly towards the woman.
- 4 In the end, the bear
 - a pushed the woman to the ground.
 - b walked around the woman and then moved away.
 - c stayed still and the woman moved away.

8 **SPEAKING** Discuss this question in pairs or small groups: Is it important to have national parks? Why? / Why not?

9 **INTERNET RESEARCH** Find out about a national park in your country or a neighbouring country. What is special about this area? Are there any special animals in the park? Are there any special places or sights? Share the information with the rest of your class.